



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO Superintendents
HR Directors
Accountability Directors

FROM Dr. Rebecca Garland 

EVAAS DELAY

Since the release of EVAAS data on October 2nd, many principals and central office administrators have contacted DPI reporting that their Standard 8 (school-level student growth) was incorrect on many principals' Educator Effectiveness Dashboards. When we investigated the issue, we found that the problem was a result of a mistake in the evaluation data that we received from the NC Educator Effectiveness System (NCEES). When we requested the 2013-14 evaluation data from NCEES, the system updated the educator's site assignment to the current (2014-15) school year. As a result of this error, any principal who received a new school assignment on July 1, 2014, would have his/her Standard 8 rating populated from the new school's data and not the prior year's school.

In addition to the issue with principals, we have found that teachers who received a new school assignment (within the district) will see their 2014-15 school assignment reflected on their Educator Evaluation Dashboard. Because teacher-level growth estimates are assigned based on the roster verification process and not school assignment, the growth estimates for these teachers are correct and it is only the school name at the top of the report that is incorrect. Furthermore, teachers who receive school-level growth in lieu of an individual student-growth estimate received school growth from their 2014-15 school-year assignment and not their prior year school assignment. This school-level growth, of course, has no impact on the teachers' evaluation or eventual status, but it is important to the NCDPI that these placeholder data reflect the correct school assignment.

Because this error affects a substantial number of principals and teachers across the state, the NCDPI will delay the release of teacher-level growth estimates until we are confident that the data accurately reflect the 2013-14 school year assignments. The good news is that a preliminary analysis of the growth data shows that 20.5 percent of NC teachers exceeded expected growth with their students, 62.8 percent met expected growth their students, and only 16.7 percent of teachers did not meet expected growth with their students. The problem with school assignment that we have identified will have no impact on the state growth model – this issue only affects the school to which the educator is attached. We hope this matter will be resolved before the end of the month, but we will communicate a definite release date for teachers once we have resolved the school assignment issues. We apologize for any inconvenience this situation might cause, but we believe it is imperative that these data be correct before we grant access to teachers. Our

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purpose in releasing the data first to central office administrators and principals is to identify such issues and provide opportunities for preview of data. We appreciate your instant communication to us so the issue can be corrected before thousands of teachers have data access. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact Tom Tomberlin (thomas.tomberlin@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-3440) or Educator Effectiveness (educatoreffectiveness@dpi.nc.gov).

RBG/trt